



BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1943

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CONFIDENTIAL  
NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.



BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

Town Hall,  
Lymington.  
April, 1944.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND  
COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH  
OF LYMINGTON

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Annual Report for the Year 1943

I have the honour to present you with my report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Lymington during 1943.

As requested by the Ministry of Health the report will deal briefly with public health matters arising during the year.

As there will probably be some delay in receiving the Registrar General's return I propose submitting the vital statistics at a later date.

As a matter of interest however, of the deaths in the Borough 55% were over the age of 70 years. Seven deaths were over 90 and sixty-seven over 80 years of age. Heart disease was responsible for the largest number of deaths, with cancer coming second. There were 9 deaths from Influenza, and 14 from tubercular diseases. These figures are, of course, not final as there may be some slight adjustment necessary when the Registrar General's returns are received.

Infectious Diseases

Details of Notified Cases.

Disease	No. Notified	Removed to Hospital	
		Langley	Setley
Measles	10	-	1
Whooping Cough	8	-	3
Scarlet Fever	7	7	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-	-
Diphtheria	3	3	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
TOTALS	35	10	4

In addition to the above, one suspected case of C.S.Meningitis (not confirmed) was removed to the Southampton Isolation Hospital.

Notification of measles and whooping cough show a reduction, there being 40 measles in 1942 and 10 in 1943, 24 cases of whooping cough in 1942 and only 8 in 1943. There is a marked reduction in Scarlet Fever, 20 in 1942 and 7 in 1943. Diphtheria has increased there being three cases  
1.



this year as against none in 1942; there were, however, no deaths. There was one serious case of diphtheria which, in my opinion, would have died had she not been previously immunised.

### Immunisation against Diphtheria

Protective treatment has again shown very satisfactory progress. The following table indicates the position at the 31st December, 1943.

	Under 5 years	Between 5 & 15 years	Totals
Estimated pop.of children	1500	2500	4000
No.immunised during 1940 to 1942	906	2337 x	3243 x
No.immunised during 1943	308	155	463
TOTALS	1214	2492	3706
Percentages of children immunised To 31.12.42 To 31.12.43	60% 81%	93% 99%	81% 90%

x This figure does not indicate those children still between 5 and 15 years of age, as since 1940 several will have reached 15 years and over. Following this, I estimate the actual number and percentages between the age groups to be.

	<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>5 to 15 years</u>
Total No. immunised	1214	2228
Percentage immunised	81%	89%

### SCABIES

The Scabies Clinic continues to be held at the Masonic Hall, Lymington every Tuesday morning.

The number of cases treated was a few less than in 1942 there being 169 in that year as compared with 144 in 1943. The latter figure includes 30 cases from the New Forest Rural District. In all 312 treatments were given.

Four Scabies cases were sent to the Setley House Hospital for special nursing attention.

### WATER SUPPLIES

Lymington Town obtains its supply from the Corporation owned works at Ampress assisted by a supply from the West Hampshire Water Company.

An average of 190,000 gallons of water were raised per day at the Ampress works and 28,000 gallons were taken from the West Hampshire Water Company. This gives an approximate average of 36 gallons used daily per person.

The other parts of the Borough are supplied by the West Hampshire Water Company, who continue to provide the Health Department with copies of the analyst's reports on samples taken. These reports were satisfactory.

### Sufficiency and Quality.

The supply from the mains is sufficient and the quality good.

## Details of Supply

<u>Source of Supply</u>		<u>Standpipes</u>
<u>Lymington Town</u>	Ampress Water Works West Hampshire Water Co.	None known
<u>New Milton</u> <u>Milford-on-Sea</u> <u>Hordle</u> <u>Pennington</u> <u>Bashley</u>	West Hampshire Water Co.	do.

There are a few properties, chiefly in the Bashley area served by well water. The quality generally is satisfactory.

The supply from the Mains is constant, and the population is supplied from the works directly.

A total of eleven samples of water have been taken, including five from the Lymington Town's supply. One report indicated that the Town's water was not up to the standard for a public supply, but later reports all proved to be satisfactory. I have instructed that the water from Ampress Works is to be continuously chlorinated.

Regarding the remaining six samples, these were taken from various wells; in four cases the reports were unsatisfactory, and appropriate action has been taken.

In my last report I mentioned the unsatisfactory well supply at Becton Farm, New Milton. I am glad to report that this farm is now provided with a main water supply, and the previously very unsatisfactory position has been cleared up.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

This work is done by the Borough Engineer's Department, and the collection of refuse and salvage on alternate weeks appears to be working satisfactorily. Special additional collections are made at certain premises where refuse is accumulated more rapidly than is normal at private houses or other business premises. In this and other details of this service there is excellent co-operation between the Borough Engineer's and my departments.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The greater part of the Borough has main drainage facilities and considering war-time restrictions, satisfactory progress is being made in the connection of properties to the new sewer which was completed in 1942. The following table indicates the connections made since 1940.

District	No. of properties connected				Totals
	1940	1941	1942	1943	
New Milton	-	5	-	1	6
Milford-on-Sea	12	-	41	10	63
Everton and Hordle	39	36	6	10	91
Pennington	24	63	8	12	107
Total connected to	75	104	55	33	267
new sewer					
" to old sewer	16	4	1	1	22
Total connections	91	108	56	34	289



There are drainage difficulties, particularly in parts of Pennington especially at St.Marks Road and Greenlands Estate. Main drainage should be provided here as soon as possible.

### PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS

The shipping entering the port consisted of:-

Coastwise vessels - motor 60. Sailing - nil  
Foreign vessels - nil

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections made during 1943 -

Item	Inspections	Defects	Notices		Defects Remedied
			Inf.	Form.	
Dairies and Cowsheds	284	87	1	-	85
Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards	30	8	-	-	8
Meat and Food Inspections	262	-	-	-	-
Factories (including bakehouses)	119	17	-	-	17
Shops Act	21	6	-	-	5
Disinfestation	17	17	-	-	17
Drainage	168	20	1	-	18
Housing and House Repairs	174	31	-	-	22
Housing Survey (Council Houses)	432	3	-	-	-
Dustbins	41	11	-	-	9
Complaints and Nuisances	205	72	1	1	60
Moveable Dwellings	13	-	-	-	-
Water Supplies and Samples	19	4	-	-	4
Milk Samples	6	-	-	-	-
Rats and Mice	193	103	-	-	103
Infectious Diseases	38	-	-	-	-
Disinfections	30	-	-	-	-
Food D/C	56	-	-	-	-
Scabies	73	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria Immunisation	86	-	-	-	-
Schools	15	1	-	-	-
Refuse Sites	12	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2304	380	3	1	348

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Generally speaking the condition of these premises has been found satisfactory. Several defects were found, but these were mainly due to war conditions and, with one exception, have been remedied.

Inadequate Sanitary facilities	- 3	) Remedied
Defective " "	- 5	
Unclean " "	- 6	
Defective ventilation	- 1	
Defective drainage	- 2	

The defects in factories outstanding at 31.12.42 were remedied during 1943.

### DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

There are 84 registered premises in the Borough, the main of which have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

Improvements have been carried out at several dairies as follows:-

Reconstruction of buildings and floorings	2
" " floorings and drainage	6
Provision of water supply	1
New Dairy	1

Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations have been issued by the County Council as follows -

Accredited Milk - 16 (One increase over 1942)  
T.T.Tested " - 6 (Five increase over 1942)

Under the same Regulations the Council has issued two bottling licences (T.T.Tested milk) and nine dealers Licences (T.T.Tested milk)

The defects found during the years were -

Lack of Linewashing	58	Unclean milking stools	10
Unclean floors	5	Unclean approaches	6
Defective floorings	4	Generally unclean	2
Defective Water Supplies	2		

One Informal Notice was served during the year.

Six milk samples were taken, all of which were found to be satisfactory.

#### HOUSING

Excluding the survey of Council Houses, 32 houses were inspected, 25 of them in respect of items of disrepair and 7 for suspected overcrowding. Out of the 25 houses in a state of disrepair 19 were remedied during the year. Cases of overcrowding were referred to the Housing Committee and are being dealt with as houses become available.

Seven houses in need of repair and outstanding in the report of 1942 have been repaired during 1943.

#### RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT

Following the Infestation Order, 1943, Mr. Thomas was appointed Rodent Officer and in this capacity has carried out a survey of the district to ascertain cases of rat infestation. This survey revealed Major Infestations in parts of Lymington Town and numerous Minor Infestations in other parts of the Borough.

Steps have been taken to destroy the rats and the following indicates where poisoning has been done:-

Lymington Town	30	premises treated
New Milton & Barton-on-Sea	31	" "
Milford, Hordle & Pennington	42	" "

Good results were obtained and the position in the areas treated is much improved.

Amongst other places where poison has been put down are (a) the Sea Wall from the Baths to Keyhaven, (b) the sewers in Quay Street, Waterloo Road, Bridge Road, Gosport Street, and South Street, Lymington, and (c) the Refuse Disposal Sites.

#### INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

262 visits to food shops were made for the purpose



of examining foodstuffs and as a result the following were voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption.

Beef	Tuberculosis	170 lbs.
"	Decomposition	27½ "
Bacon	Out of condition	90 "
Livers	"	22 "
Fish (various)	"	10 stone
Cheese	"	157 lbs.
Lard	"	2½ "
Peas	"	317 "
Prunes	"	4 "
Oat Flakes	"	37 "
Eggs	Bad	15 doz.
Tins of meat	Blown, punctured etc.	205
" " fish	"	50
" " vegetables	"	27
" " milk	"	67
" " fruit	"	66
" " soups	"	39
" " jams	"	19

The beef was returned to the distributors for salvaging and other foods were, where possible, used for animal feeding. Certain items were dealt with through the Salvage Officer of the Ministry of Food.

#### GENERAL SURVEY

I have already referred to the causes of death earlier in the report.

With regard to infectious disease the total number of cases notified in 1942 was 93, the total number notified in 1943 was 35 which shows a very marked reduction. Immunisation has continued to be satisfactory, the percentage of children immunised having increased, especially under 5 years which is the more important age. I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance I have received from Dr. Ball at the Child Welfare Centres, the County nurses, the Heads of the schools, and Miss Heriot Hill.

The health of the Borough has been remarkably good, with the exception of an epidemic of Influenza which was widespread throughout the country and caused a few deaths.

The increased number of licences granted for Tuberculin Tested and Accredited herds is an indication of the continued improvement taking place in the milk supply of the Borough.

Housing conditions are far from satisfactory, and tend to deteriorate as the war goes on, due to the shortage of labour and materials. We have commenced a survey of the housing conditions, but the Council will realise the difficulty in carrying this out owing to the other duties which have to be carried out by the department. I am, however, anxious to have more detailed knowledge of the housing conditions so as to be aware of the position after the war. There is no question that a very considerable amount of work will have to be done in this connection.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the valuable assistance so willingly rendered to me by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and also by Mrs. Fullerton, whose services have been the greatest help in the clerical work of the Health Department. Mr. Thomas has also been most helpful, particularly in undertaking the treatment of Scabies.

I again wish to acknowledge the unfailing support I have received from the Chairman and members of the Health Committee.

Yours faithfully,

E. CROFT WATTS.

Medical Officer of Health.



BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Lymington.  
May, 1944.

Annual Report 1943

I have now received the Registrar General's returns, and attached are the Vital Statistics relating to the Borough of Lymington, which were omitted from my Annual Report.

It is perhaps interesting to note that during 1942 & 1943 the number of births exceeded the number of deaths; the contrary was the case in 1939-1941.

The chief causes of death are as follows:-

Heart Disease		83
Cancer		48
Intracranial Vascular lesions		30
Nephritis		15
Tuberculosis	Respiratory 9)	13
	Others 4)	
Bronchitis		13
Influenza		9
Pneumonia		8

Regarding the death rate, which is high as compared with England and Wales as a whole, (12.1), this is undoubtedly due to the high percentage of old people resident in the Borough.

It is a curious fact that in spite of the preponderance of old people the birthrate is also higher than that of the country as a whole (16.5).

The death rate of all infants per 1000 births is also considerably lower than that for England and Wales (49).

*P. Griffiths*

Medical Officer of Health.



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BOROUGH OF LYNNINGTON

Vital Statistics for the Year 1943

Population 19,220.		Total	M	F	Birth and Death Rates	
Live Births )	Legitimate	303	145	158	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population	16.75
	Illegitimate	19	7	12		
Still Births )	Legitimate	7	4	3	Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	21.27
	Illegitimate					
Deaths		302	134	168	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population	15.71

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age - Total Deaths 12.	Rate
All infants per 1,000 live births	37.26
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	39.60
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	No deaths

E. CROFT WATTS.  
Medical Officer of Health.



E. CROFT WALES.

Medical Officer, St. ...